

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. 62-16 Building Date: 1916

Building Name: Edward T. Gross House

Location: 10623 Gross Lane, Beltsville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Edward Gross house is a two-and-one-half-story frame gable-roofed house which stands east of a rural lane between Vansville and the extensive property of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. It is a front-gable structure, four bays by two bays, with principal facade being the irregular two-bay south gable end. Entrance is in the second bay of this south gable end, through a door with transom light. A one-story shed-roof porch spans the south gable end and wraps around part of the west facade of the house. The porch has chamfered posts and rests on a concrete block foundation. The first and second bays of the west facade consist of a recessed two-story porch, flush with the facade and fully covered by the west plane of the gable roof. There is a door in the second bay. The German siding of the house is covered with gray "bricktex" asphalt shingle. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash, with narrow molded surrounds, painted red. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle and has plain overhanging eaves. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge between third and fourth bays, and another chimney west of the ridge near the north gable end. The foundation of the main block appears to be brick and encloses a large basement. The interior plan of the house consists of side passage and double parlor, with kitchen to the rear. There is a one-bay shed-roof kitchen addition on the north end of the east facade. There are no outbuildings.

Significance:

The Edward Gross house is a good example of early twentieth century front-gable vernacular housing. It is significant also as a typical dwelling of that period, built by an emerging middle-class of black landowners. The house was built by Edward T. Gross, a farm-laborer who had come to the Vansville area in the late nineteenth century. Gross began to buy up small pieces of property, eventually accumulating a farm of over 30 acres. In 1916, he built this house, using timber from the land, locally milled. Labor was provided voluntarily by family members and neighboring farmers; members of the family estimate the total cost at \$600. The house is modest, but it is significant because it was a departure from the earlier form of dwelling constructed by blacks; i.e., instead of being constructed entirely by hand by members of an extended family, the owner-produced materials were commercially prepared, for cash. The result is a plain but comfortable dwelling which has remained in the family to the third generation.

Acreae: 1.613 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No.

Magi No. PG: 62-16

DOE \_\_yes \_\_no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Edward T. Gross House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 10623 Gross Lane \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Beltsville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 5

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James R. Gross

street &amp; number 7507 Cheam Rd. \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.:

city, town Glendale \_\_\_\_\_ state and zip code Md. 20769

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_ liber 5579

street &amp; number Main Street \_\_\_\_\_ folio 373

city, town Upper Marlboro \_\_\_\_\_ state Md.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1978 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state ☒ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records History Division

city, town Riverdale, \_\_\_\_\_ state Md.

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #62-16

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Edward Gross house is a two-and-one-half-story frame gable-roofed house which stands east of a rural lane between Vansville and the extensive property of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. It is a front-gable structure, approximately four bays by two bays, with principal facade being the irregular two-bay south gable end. Entrance is in the second bay of this south gable end, through a door with transom light. A one-story shed-roof porch spans the south gable end and wraps around part of the west facade of the house. The porch has chamfered posts and rests on a concrete block foundation. On the west facade of the house the northernmost bay of the porch is enclosed, making an additional one-bay-square one-story room which has a door on its south face. The first and second (northerly) bays of the west facade consist of a recessed two-story porch, flush with the facade and fully covered by the west plane of the gable roof. There is a door in the second bay. The German siding of the house is covered with gray "bricktex" asphalt shingle. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash, with narrow molded surrounds, painted red. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle and has plain overhanging eaves. There is a corbelled brick (stove) chimney at the ridge between third and fourth bays, and another (kitchen stove) chimney west of the ridge near the north gable end. The foundation of the main block appears to be brick (covered with plywood) and encloses a large basement.

There is a one-bay shed roof kitchen addition on the north end of the east facade; it is two stories high and extends the east plane of the gable roof at a shallower pitch. It rests on concrete piers.

The interior plan of the house consists of side passage and double parlor. The south door leads into a stairhall with a straight flight of stairs, with panelled newel and square balusters. The stairhall leads north into the kitchen, while to the west are two (front and back) parlors, originally unconnected.

There are no outbuildings.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #62-16

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

Specific dates 1916 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Edward Gross house is a good example of early twentieth century front-gable vernacular housing. It is significant also as a typical dwelling of that period, built by an emerging middle-class of black landowners. The house was built by Edward T. Gross, a farm-laborer who had come to the Vansville area in the late nineteenth century. Gross began to buy up small pieces of property, eventually accumulating a farm of over 30 acres.<sup>1</sup> In 1916, he built this house, using timber from the land, locally milled. Labor was provided voluntarily by family members and neighboring farmers; members of the family estimate the total cost at \$600.<sup>2</sup>

The house is modest, but it is significant because it was a departure from the earlier form of dwelling constructed by blacks; i.e., instead of being constructed entirely by hand by members of an extended family, the owner-produced materials were commercially prepared, for cash. The result, is a plain but comfortable dwelling which has remained in the family to the third generation.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Prince George's County Deeds #42:399; #29:472; #138:85. Notes from interview, 1978, by George McDaniel with Inez Gross Hopkins.

<sup>2</sup> Interview with Annie Gross Henry, June 1985; McDaniel notes, 1978.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #62-16

Cf. Chain of Title

Cf. Notes, Item #8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.613 acres TM#14, parcel 82Quadrangle name Laurel, Section D

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate July 1985street & number c/o Co. Planning MNCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlborostate Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## Chain of Title

Edward T. Gross House  
P.G. 62-16

#5579:373 14 Sept. 1982 Deed	James W. Gross to James R. and Evelyn Gross; property of Edward T. Gross, with exception, leaving residue of 1.613 acres, which grantor acquired by #5427:174.
#5427:174 30 June 1981 Deed	Maurice R. Hopkins to James W. Gross; property of Edward T. Gross, with exceptions, leaving residue of 1.613 acres; which grantor acquired by inheritance from Rachel V. Gross; reserving for grantor a life estate.
#4005:49 6 Oct 1971 Deed	Mary Edna Brewer, personal representative of the estate of Rachel V. Gross, to Inez Hopkins and James Wilfred Gross, as tenants in common; 1.613 acres in the 1st Election District; residue of 11.048 acres obtained under the will of Edward T. Gross, in WDA #5:437; and same devised under will recorded GSMcG #9:450.
GSMcG #9:450 22 Jan 1971 Will	Testator, Rachel V. Gross, who died 5 Sep 1970; deceased directed that all her property was to be equally divided between her daughter, Inez Hopkins, and her son, James Wilfred Gross.
WDA #5:437 3 May 1960 Will	Testator, Edward T. Gross, who died 27 Oct 1959; deceased devised his entire estate, including 11 to 12 acres near Beltsville, to his wife, Rachel Virginia Gross.
#42:399 13 Mar 1908 Deed	For \$35, John Franklin, widower, to Edward T. Gross; 14 acres in Vansville District, part of "Richard and Joseph"; same property which was conveyed by CSM #2:247 and devised by Joseph Selby to John Franklin.

P. G. 62-16  
Edward Gross House  
Beltsville Vicinity  
Private

c. 1918

This handsome two story house has a side passage, double parlor plan. It was built by a black landowner, Edward Gross, and his neighbors in c. 1918. It was the center of a prosperous farm.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI #1705455704

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Edward Gross House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

10623 Gross Lane

CITY, TOWN

Beltsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

James Gross and Inez Gross Hopkins

Telephone #: 301-937-4260

STREET &amp; NUMBER

10623 Gross Lane

CITY, TOWN

Beltsville

☒ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code  
Maryland 20705**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #: 1498

Folio #: 290

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE  
Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two story frame house stands parallel to Gross Lane, on the east side of the road. The facade of the house faces toward the South, in the direction of the old road that used to ascend the hill in front of the house. Around the front and halfway down the western length of the house extends a shed porch, original to the construction.

The structure is balloon frame, with the weatherboards now sheathed with gray tar paper siding. The trims and posts are painted red, giving the house a lively appearance. The windows contain double hung sashes with two over two lights, which are original. A brick stove flue ascends through the middle of the front block, and another through the kitchen in the rear. Sheds have been attached along the eastern length in the rear, enlarging the kitchen. Below the house is a large cellar.

In floor plan, the house has a side hall passage with two double rooms on the western side. At the end of the passage is the one room kitchen extending from the rear of the house. Originally it was one story, but has been enlarged to two with a gallery. The front room downstairs was a formally furnished parlor into which Mrs. Hopkins said, none of the children were allowed, when she was a child, except when "company came." The second room, unconnected originally to the parlor, was the dining room. It too was a formal room for adults. The kitchen served as the gathering place for all informal, everyday activities of the family.

A handsome straight flight of stairs with a large panelled newel post and square, unbeaded balustrade ascended the east wall of the side passageway into the upstairs. The upstairs consisted originally of a central passageway and three bedrooms, and today contains another with the addition of the second story over the kitchen.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1918 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Edward Gross, his brothers, and a local man named Kennedy

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the present occupant and owner, Mrs. Inez Gross Hopkins, her father -- who was the owner, builder, and occupant of this house -- moved to this vicinity when he was about six years old from Upper Marlboro to work on a farm nearby. Over the years, he saved his money and began buying this tract of land, bit by bit, accumulating eventually thirty-six acres. In c. 1918 he built this house, using timber from the land. He was assisted by his brothers and by a local white man named Kennedy. According to Mrs. Hopkins, she thought that the entire costs of construction were c. \$600.

The significance of this house is that it represents the type of dwelling built and occupied by a black family who were able to acquire property and form a class of black yeoman farmers. Instead of hand-made materials, most of the projects used in construction were commercially made and acquired with cash, the cash from the farm being needed to have the raw materials from the land (wood) prepared and cut into structural elements such as the sills and posts and into decorative features such as the newel post and trims. The labor was essentially volunteer assistance from kin and a continuation of an earlier tradition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

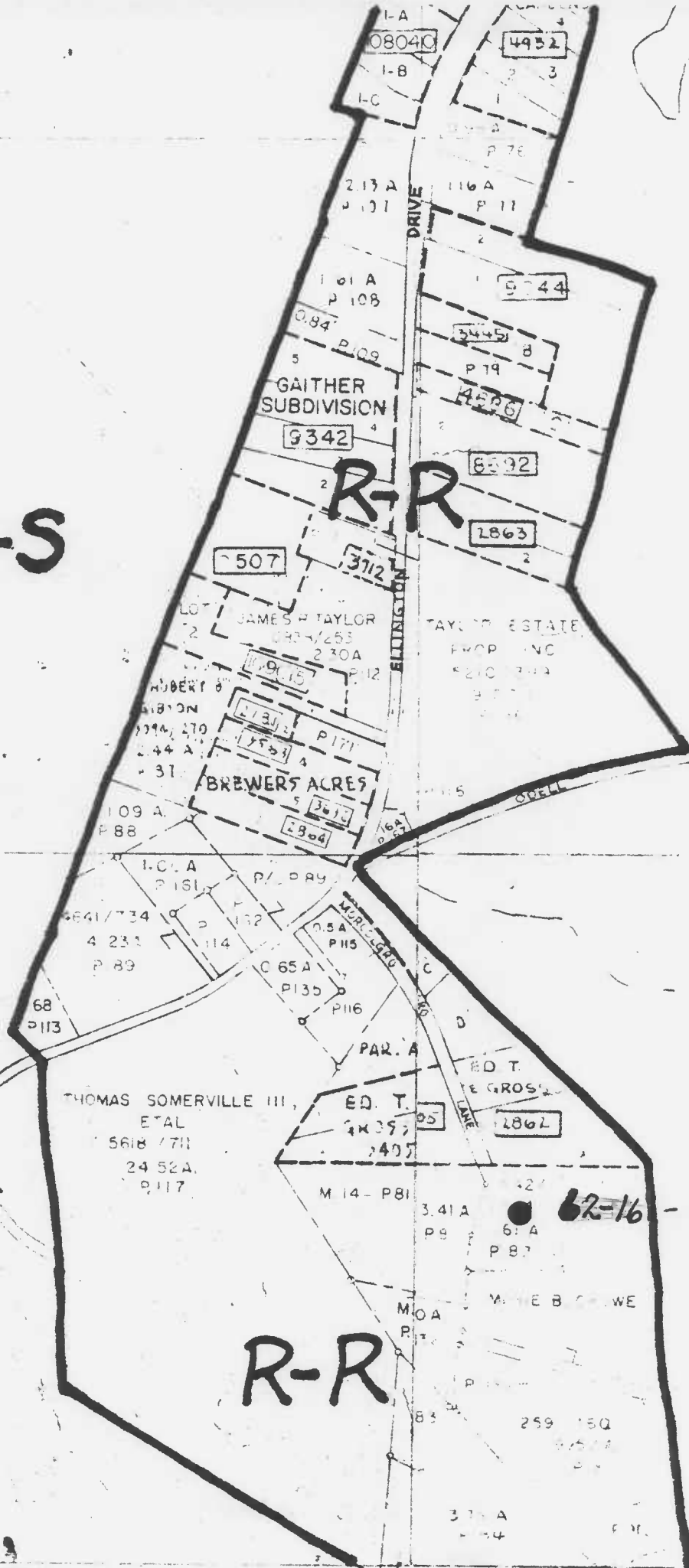
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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

P/O P. 180

O-S



PG: 62-16



GROSS HOUSE

PG. 62-16

GROSS HOUSE  
P.G.

WEST VIEW

G.W.M.

BETTSVILLE VIC.

10/76

PROBATION  
DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
JUDICIAL  
SYSTEM



P6:62-16

GROSS House

P.G. -

Facade

Gum

Beltsville Vic.

10/76





PG. 62-16

P.G. ~~#62-16~~

62-16

Edward Gross House  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
June 1985  
South elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



PG:62-16

~~P.G. #62-16~~<sup>17</sup>

Edward Gross House  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
June 1985  
Southwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



PG. 62-16

P.G. #62-16

Edward Gross House  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
June 1985  
Northwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.